

Planned thematic report activity 2017-2018

The thematic reviews included in the remit to Estyn for 2017-2018 are listed in the table below.

The list includes 13 items: 2 large reviews that will provide practical supporting materials to the sector; 9 standard reviews; and 2 short reviews. There is also additional capacity for one short, rapid-response review.

Title	Purpose	Year/Duration
1. Best practice in schools and colleges in teaching the new GCSEs and Welsh Baccalaureate.	This report will focus on curriculum planning and implementation of the new GCSEs in English and Welsh languages and in mathematics and numeracy, and of the new Welsh Baccalaureate. It will include a look at approaches to examination entries. The review will facilitate the sharing of effective practice through training materials and a conference.	Year 1 of 1 Large review
2. Improving teaching and building capacity: a good practice guide and toolkit for schools.	This review will evaluate the impact on learners of programmes such as peer observations, coaching and mentoring and feedback in primary, special and secondary schools. The report will be accompanied by resources for schools.	Year 1 of 1 Large review
3. Preparing for the new curriculum: year 2.	This review will be the second in a series of three reports on planning for the new curriculum. It will focus on specific aspects of curriculum reform, particularly leadership capacity, professional learning and the Digital Competence Framework.	Year 2 of 3 Standard review
4. Religious and moral education at key stage 2 and key stage 3.	This report is part of a series of reports on curriculum subject areas. It will build on the 2013 report on Religious Education in key stage 4.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
5. Welsh at key stage 2 and key stage 3: subject report.	This report is part of a series of reports on curriculum subject areas. It will focus on Welsh as a subject from key stage 2 to stage 3 and link to early developments with the new area of learning and experience.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review

6. A levels in sixth forms and colleges.	This review will provide an overview of standards, provision and leadership regarding A level provision for 16 - 19 year old learners in sixth forms and colleges.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
7. Initial teacher education and professional learning in schools.	This review will provide a baseline study of the interrelation of initial teacher training practices and professional learning in schools. It will help inform providers of initial teacher education in preparing for the newly accredited ITE courses. It will focus on coaching and mentoring, which are an important elements in initial teacher education and in professional learning.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
8. Higher apprenticeships.	This review will provide a national baseline report on higher apprenticeships.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
9. Education and training opportunities for young offenders.	This review will focus on the education and training of young offenders in Wales, who are a particularly vulnerable group of learners.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
10. Managed moves - how well are these used by LAs and schools	This review will provide an overview of the frequency and use of managed moves: following messages from Estyn's Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) report in 2016.	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
11. Services for Young People in Wales.	This report will provide an overview of youth services in Wales. It will contribute to a joint evaluation by Inspection Wales (Estyn, HIW, WAO and CSSIW).	Year 1 of 1 Standard review
12. Local authority and school readiness to meet the demands of the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Bill.	This review will provide a baseline to help policy makers judge the impact of the ALN Bill in future years.	Year 1 of 1 Short review
13. Communication with and information for parents of school pupils.	This report will focus on the preferred communication routes of parents. It will consider how schools are trying to improve their existing lines of communication. Sources of evidence will include responses to Estyn questionnaires, which show that the weakest responses on the parent questionnaire are around communication: knowing how to make a complaint and being kept informed about their child's progress.	Year 1 of 1 Short review
Additional capacity for one short, rapid-response review.		